

Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 2, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

In the early hours of the new fiscal year, the House and Senate passed the 2010 budget bills. In the end, the budget package did not include the Governor's tax referral as requested. The Legislature adjourned sine die at 7:31 am on July 1st.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee reports on the 2010 budget bills can be found at:

Budget Summary

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetlegislationsummary070109.pdf>

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/HouseSenate6-30.pdf>

Later Wednesday, the Governor vetoed budget bills HB2645-HB2650, SB1028, SB1029, SB1031, SB1035, SB 1036, SB1145, S1187, SB 1258, signed SB1188 and trailer bill HB2643 with line item vetoes, then called for a Third Special Session of the 49th Legislature to begin on Monday, July 6th. In her statement regarding the vetoes and the call for a special session she indicated her intent to see the process through to a prudent budget that neither over-spends nor under-funds. To read the entire statement, go to:

http://www.governor.state.az.us/dms/upload/PR_070109_GovBrewerBudgetStatement.pdf

Note: The signing of SB1188 with line item vetoes by Governor Brewer avoided a shutdown of government services yet eliminated lump sum reductions to several agencies serving older and vulnerable adults.

To view Governor Brewer's letters regarding the veto and signing of bills with line item vetoes, visit the *Latest News section at the website.*

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/>

Legislation:

The following are highlighted bills tracked this session on *the Councils FULL List* that were passed and forwarded to the Governor.

Bills Passed:

H2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program; pilot program allowing certified nursing assistants to administer certain medications originally scheduled to expire on Oct 1, 2009 is extended for two years to October 1, 2011.

H2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation; expands the civil penalties for committing financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult or theft. Includes a person who is in a confidential relationship with a vulnerable adult to the definition of *position of trust and confidence*.

H2399: Automated External Defibrillators; removes a number of requirements related to physician oversight of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives; establishes notification requirements for guardians who intend to consent to the removal of the artificial administration of food or fluid from their wards, and provides standards for legal challenges by those notified about the guardians decisions.

S1400: Dental Hygienists; Public Agencies; makes changes to the statutes that govern affiliated dental practice settings and eliminates requirement of working on persons no older than 18.

The complete report of all the bills tracked by the Council can be found at the web report link provided in this newsletter.

The final tally on day 170 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session: 1,133 bills posted, 212 passed, 15 vetoed, 12 signed; 101 memorials and resolutions posted and 12 passed.

(Watching the live proceedings at the Legislature earlier this week was a little bit like running a marathon while listening to an auctioneer read bills and amendments. A lot of stamina and a keen sense of hearing were required.)

FYI

We intend to continue providing the Legislative Update through the Third Special Session tracking the state 2010 budget process. Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided monthly with a federal focus.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's final web report *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic was something that was likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council tracked the bill's progress.

Here is the final report on the bills tracked by the Council during the regular session of the 49th Legislature.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.2909

Title: To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved method to measure poverty so as to enable a better assessment of the effects of programs under the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2909 was introduced on June 17, 2009 by Representative Jim McDermott (WA-7) with five cosponsors.

The purpose of the Act is to provide for an improved and updated method for measuring the extent to which families and individuals in the United States have sufficient income to allow a minimal level of consumption spending that meets their basic physical needs, including food, shelter (including utilities), clothing, and other necessary items, in order to better assess the effects of certain policies and programs in reducing the prevalence and depth of poverty, to accurately gauge the level of economic deprivation, and to improve understanding of the targeting of public resources, without directly affecting the distribution of, or eligibility for, any Federal benefits or assistance.

On 6/17/09 the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

For more information specific to this bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill numbers under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society, *Transcultural Aspects of Aging & Healthcare*
WHEN: Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7:30 am 4:45 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263
North Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201
For more information:
<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=90747>

WHAT: Arizona Health Care Association Annual Conference & Trade Show, *Back to the Future Embracing the Past...Envisioning the Future*
WHEN: August 25-27, 2009, Renaissance Glendale Hotel, Glendale Arizona
For more information and to register: www.azhca.org/events

The **Arizona Department of Housing** has scheduled the following Constituent Forums to allow for public comment on the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2010-2014).

FLAGSTAFF Wednesday, July 15, 2009
Flagstaff City Council Chambers
211 W. Aspen Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

LAKE HAVASU CITY Thursday, July 16, 2009
Lake Havasu Aquatic Center
100 Park Avenue, Room 155
Lake Havasu, AZ 86403
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

SIERRA VISTA Wednesday, August 12, 2009
Sierra Vista City Hall
1011 N. Coronado Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

PHOENIX Tuesday, September 15, 2009
The Buttes Marriott Resort
2000 Westcourt Way
Tempe, AZ 85282
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

The Phoenix Forum is scheduled as a session at the 2009 GOVERNOR'S HOUSING FORUM.

The public is invited to attend this session only at no fee.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a safe, enjoyable Fourth of July weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging